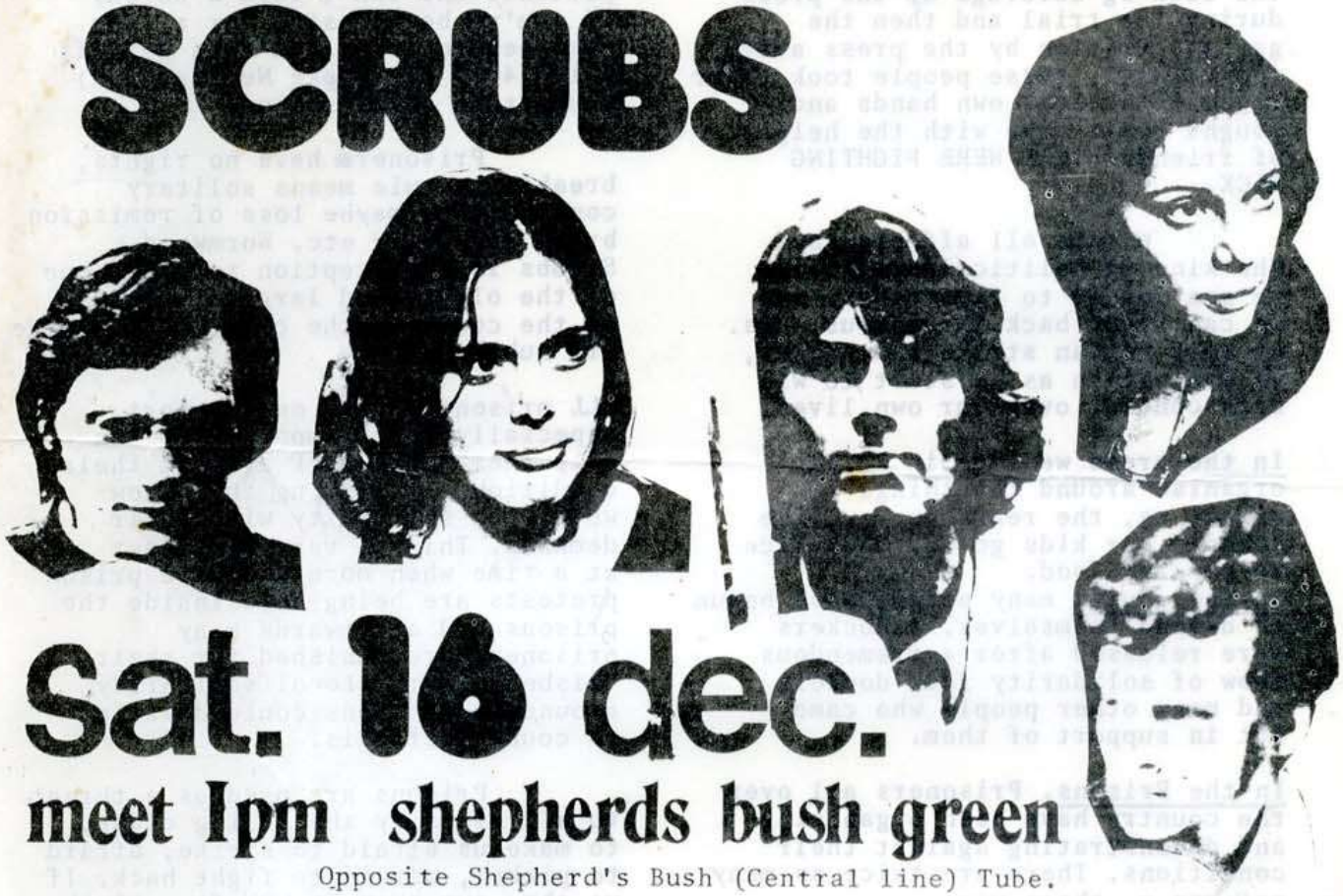
MARCH ON WORMWOOD SCRUBS



sat. 16 dec.

meet 1pm shepherds bush green

Opposite Shepherd's Bush (Central line) Tube.

PUBLIC MEETING afterwards in DENBIGH HALL, Denbigh Rd., (off Pembridge Rd, Pembridge Cresc. at 6p.m. Nearest tube: Notting Hill Gate)

We are demonstrating this weekend against the increasing violence the State uses against us, through the police, the courts and in the prisons.

Last week, 4 people, two men and two women were each sent to prison for 10 years for what the judge described as "the intention of disrupting and attacking the democratic society of this country". 4 other people on trial with them were acquited. A year ago, Jake Prescott was mugged by Judge Melford-Stephenson for 15 years. The charge against these 5? Conspiracy to cause explosions in the UK during an unspecified space of time over the last three years.

Conspiracy is a vague charge which is difficult to defend. The judge in this case, Justice James said a nod or a wink could constitute a conspiracy. The only effective defence would have been to account for every minute of one's time over the last three years. This was clearly impossible.

WHOSE CONSPIRACY?

The defendants in this trial knew that the police were lying and that it was the police who had planted the guns and gelignite which were found in Amhurst Road. The amount of contradictory evidence in this case, as in so many others was enormous, and that it was clear from the beginning that the police had gone to so much trouble to gloss over the truth that the trial eventually took 5 months.

A POLITICAL TRIAL?

This trial was described as a political trial, because the defendants felt all the way along

that they were picked up originally because they had been active in such things as Claimants Unions, the Squatting campaign in Ilford, in the campaign for Women's Liberation, in Gay Liberation and in Black Cross, an organisation for political prisoners.

HOW DOES THIS TRIAL RELATE TO US?

The most important thing about this trial is that despite the lack of coverage by the press during the trial and then the garbage written by the press after the verdict, these people took their fight into their own hands and fought their case with the help of friends. THEY WERE FIGHTING BACK.

We are all affected by the kind of political system we are forced to live under, and we can fight back in various ways. At work we can strike and picket, we can sit-in as we start to win back control over our own lives.

In the areas we live in we can organise around the things that affect us, the rents we pay, the schools our kids go to, the price we pay for food.
In the courts many people have begun to defend themselves. 5 dockers were released after a tremendous show of solidarity from dockers and many other people who came out in support of them.

In the Prisons. Prisoners all over the country have been organising and demonstrating against their conditions. There are twice as many prisons as there were prisons now than there were 20 years ago. Overcrowding, bad conditions, bad food, no medical care, very little exercise. Untried prisoners are locked up from 5 at night til 7 in the morning, convicted prisoners work for a pittance and can't form a union. If you've been inside for a long time before trial and then get off (like 4 of the Stoke Newington 8) you get no compensation.

Prisoners have no rights, breaking a rule means solitary confinement, maybe loss of remission bread and water etc. Wormwood Scrubs is no exception to this; one of the oldest and largest prisons in the country. the conditions inside are sub-human.

ALL prisoners need our support, especially local support. We can help them fight back against their conditions by letting them know we are in solidarity with their demands. This is very important at a time when more and more prison protests are being held inside the prisons and afterwards many prisoners are punished for their "misbehaviour". Local solidarity around the prisons could do a lot to counteract this.

Prisons are used as a threat to all of us by the ruling class, to make us afraid to strike, afraid to picket, afraid to fight back. If we show our support NOW for all the people behind bars, we are attacking the system too.

SUPPORT ALL PRISONERS

SUPPORT THE AMHURST ROAD 4

SUPPORT JAKE PRESCOTT

"IF YOU CONVICT, WE ARE NOT GOING TO CHANGE. WE WILL STILL BE WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE. I KNOW THAT THE PEOPLE IN THIS DOCK WITH ME ARE PEOPLE WORKING FOR A HAPPIER AND MORE PEACEFUL WORLD. THAT IS WHO WE ARE". (Defendant in Stoke Newington 8 trial).

Stoke Newington 8 Defence Group.
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